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SP-51/74
30 April 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/NIO

SUBJECT : Sanitized Versions of NIE 11-8-73,
"Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack"

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1. We have completed preparation of a sanitized codeword version of NIE 11-8-73

2. According to past procedures, the next step would be to prepare a top secret version of the Estimate. Indeed, the preparation of such a version was placed on the USIB agenda by the Secretariat as a reminder because this was consistent with past practice. The top secret version of NIE 11-8 was devised many years ago to convey findings in the Estimate to a larger audience at a time when we were more inhibited about the use of photographic intelligence in briefing Congress and more restrictive with respect to the number of codeword clearances in the government.

3. I suggest that the requirement for a top secret version of NIE 11-8 may now be anachronistic. For example, in the more than three months that have passed since issuance of the codeword Estimate, there have been extensive briefings of Congress by the DCI, as well as JCS and other elements of the Department of Defense without any apparent difficulty or expressions of discomfiture related to the lack of a top secret version. These circumstances lead me to conclude that it would be desirable for USIB to re-examine the need for a top secret version of NIE 11-8, with an eye toward discontinuing it in the absence of a demonstrable need.

Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

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